

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is responsive to the final rejection dated March 16, 2004. A response is due by July 16, 2004, with a one-month extension of time for response. Therefore, a Request for Extension of Time is enclosed herewith.

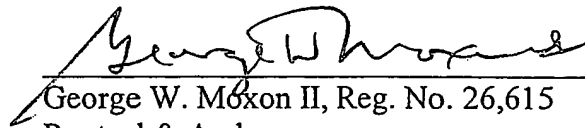
Claims 1-5, 9-19 and 21-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 9-19, 21 and 22 are allowed. Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hougham et al. in view of Gardner.

The present invention employs polyimides soluble in organic acid. This is contrasted with Hougham (U.S. Patent No. 5,324,813) which teaches using polyamic acids. As made by the amendment, the present invention has a principal difference in that it does not cure the polyimide. It is a process for coding integrated circuits with polyimides which are the reaction polymerization products of formulas I and II or III and IV, as set forth in the claim. So these are essentially non-reactive materials. Hougham teaches using unreactive diamines to produce higher molecular weight materials. The process of Hougham would not be operative if they we simply evaporated the solvent and did not cure the diamines. The fact that Gardner teaches a method of performing an integrated circuit by deposited low dielectric materials onto a substrate does not cure the deficiency of Hougham in obviating the present invention. Therefore, presently amended claims 23-25 would not be obvious from the combination of Hougham with Gardner. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 23-25 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above arguments, it is respectfully requested that the above rejection be reconsidered and allowance of all the claims, namely, 1-5, 9-19 and 21-25, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call to finalize allowance of this application and its issuance as a patent.

Application No. 09/890,378
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Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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